

VOLUME XXXIV No 4

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EDITORIAL

Enter 1991. And a Happy New Year to all our members!

This is the time we usually look back a bit and forward a bit to see what the rest of the season might hold in store. I suppose Italia '90 was the event of the year. Better for England but no better for referees.

In fact, our standing seems to have declined during the year. From, I thought, improving sympathy and support from the authorities and even the press, we now seem to have gone down again in the public view. Two reasons: some of the highly publicised decisions in Italy, some of which, let's be honest, did cause even fellow referees concern; and now at Football League level, the new, firmer (and more correct) treatment of the 'professional' foul.

Professional football does seem to be threatening the game. Aside from nonsense during the run of play, the incidence of group mayhem is rising too. No referee of whatever stature, moral or physical, can actually stop a mass of players who decide to slug it out. Then, when the League acts decisively, there are huge squeals of protest from all and sundry.

'Only a phase' the optimists will say, and referees have to be optimists . . .

The Reading RA certainly had a good year and has excellent prospects for 1991. See you on the parks and at the meetings too I hope. Happy refereeing!

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Reading RA

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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

But They Are Different

I started my working life in a very male-oriented company, where the highest a female could hope to aspire was to become a Director's secretary. However, I worked on a project outside the company with Pam Waring, the daughter-in-law of Eddie Waring, the Rugby League television commentator, who impressed me by the fact that she was a very intelligent woman working in industry. It made me wonder how much we were missing by ignoring this very valuable segment of the population. When I became responsible for recruiting graduates into the company, I made sure that women graduates were selected for the first time in the company's history.

I mention this little episode in my life, only to show that I share the desire for sexual equality. I welcomed women referees and in fact did some coaching with Wendy Prior who was the first female referee in our Society. Furthermore, I have no qualms about women playing football. Indeed I invited Pat Gregory, Chairman of the Women's FA, to talk to one of our meetings in 1982.

What I'm leading up to of course is the request in the last issue of the 'Reading Referee' by Anne Newbery, a qualified referee, for support in her campaign to be allowed to play for the Reading Whistlers, the Reading RA football team. To be more specific, she hopes to effect a revision of FA Rule 37 which bans mixed football.

As someone who ran the Whistlers for 15 years I find myself in something of a quandary. My basis for selection was that everyone who put their name down would be guaranteed a game. This meant that I sometimes picked players who seemed never to have kicked a ball before. Anne would be no more at risk than they were in a friendly kick-about and yet

I'm not sure the arguments she put forward were fair ones. Qualifying alongside men as a referee is not the same as taking part in a match with men. The FA does not stop women playing football, only playing football with men in an organised game. I've tried to think of any other physical contact sport where women are allowed to play alongside men. I couldn't come up with a single one. There is a biological difference between men and women, and I recall one of the comments Pat Gregory made. She was not keen on women playing in men's matches. Men might want to play in women's matches and

that, she said, would not be fair, because women would simply be physically disadvantaged.

Are we being old-fashioned and reactionary if we wish to avoid women being disadvantaged?

Dick Sawdon Smith

FRED MAY

In November, the Society suffered the sad loss of Fred May one of its Vice-Presidents. It is for his long and distinguished contribution to the administration of local and County football that Fred will be most remembered.

Fred was Club Secretary of Wokingham Town in the 20s and qualified as a referee in 1929. In the 30s he reached the Football League line, but his career was interrupted by World War II. In 1947 he started his 27 years as Secretary and Secretary/Manager of Reading FC. He served the Berks and Bucks FA in various capacities from 1946 and was made President in 1988.

Fred had the reputation of being strong but fair and wise, and also in 1988 he received the Lionel E. Gibbs Memorial Medal for Distinguished Service.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November

The meeting opened with a tribute to Fred May. The Chairman was able to welcome colleagues from Slough, Bracknell and Dartford who, with the newly qualified, made an attendance approaching 80 (out of 119 at the last count). Among the business, two items of particular interest were from the Reading Football League. Our representative had objected when the League took no action on a referee's report of no linesman and no corner flags. Another case concerned one side intimidating another, only this time it was the referee who did nothing and was clearly at fault.

Our 'visiting' member from Dartford, Jim Peskett, was invited to present Handbooks to some 20 newly qualified referees present - which he did with appropriate words of welcome and encouragement. George Mills then spoke about his 25 years' involvement with training as he had decided to stand down. He told of the 1960 examination of 8 questions and no oral, and he still had a copy of Ray Stroomer's exam responses. (They were good too!). The emphasis shifted first to 50% oral and it's now 60%. With John Lambden and David Keen he had developed the practical training offered at

Reading and now recorded on video. The Chairman and members showed their appreciation for his great contribution.

Graham Stockton, on behalf of the Social Committee, gave details of forthcoming events. The Children's Christmas Pantomime visit was all organised - 28 children and 7 adults would attend the Hexagon on Christmas Eve. Almost all the tickets had gone for the Wembley trip, England v. Cameroon on 6 February. The Dinner and Dance would be held at the Shire Hall Berkshire Suite. **Please note: the date announced has subsequently had to be changed to 24 May.**

Members were disappointed, but not too surprised, that Ian Porterfield was unable to come along as Guest Speaker - problems back at the ranch. Stephen Green stepped into the breach and discussed control, with plenty of membership participation.

Of course it starts with getting the decisions right. Ingredients? Fitness, positioning, bearing, decisiveness. How do you lose control? Surest way is allowing dissent. Get the physical fouls right, they are the ones that matter to the players (and everyone else). Watch for intent.

Your attitude? Not too nice, not too stropky. Dangers? Being too fussy, giving poor signals, poor use of whistle, inappropriate use of advantage. The topic of club linesmen raised an amount of discussion: instructions, psychology - make them feel part of a team etc; the final sanction of dismissal.

Not quite the evening expected but enjoyable and informative.

December

Unbelievable, unless you already knew Graham Stockton, our Vice-Chairman. Over 80 members were greeted by one S. Claus in full regalia. And he had a sack as might have been expected - of raffle ticket counterfoils for later.

The business lasted a bit longer than is our custom for the Christmas meeting but for the right reasons - a few items of refereeing discussion. Members were again reminded of their duty to check pitches because of our liability for players' safety. No need for paranoia but we must be able to show we have taken normal and reasonable care. It was reported that some referees are still confused about sending in reports. Disciplinary matters are reported to the Berks & Bucks; matters of concern to the league or competition, like late starts, are reported to the competition. Misbehaviour of spectators should be drawn to the attention of the home club - it is their responsibility.

From the Reading League it was also reported that 95% of games were being covered and that the Disciplinary Committee is active. The County has not taken action against a player known to be banned and playing under a different name in spite of representations. The explanation of 'not enough evidence' is not considered plausible.

The Sunday League is still concerned about bad language being allowed by referees on public parks. It was re-confirmed that a maximum of two substitutes is allowed - up to two may be named and any substitute named may be played. Referees are still crying off Challenge Cup matches at too short notice. The rule relating to extra time was re-confirmed. A full 15 minutes each way has to be played - under Challenge Cup rules it cannot be shortened even for inclement weather conditions. Members were advised to start extra time, even if it was not going to be possible to finish it, so that the visiting team would have the right to a home replay.

The second half as usual was the Grand Draw. The multitude of prizes were displayed attractively with flashing coloured lights, and ranged from the star prizes of colour TV and exercise bicycle down to the not-so-humble box of biscuits. (Needless to say, who didn't win yet again?). Santa ran the proceedings with his (usual) loud, humorous repartee which kept up the interest right to the end. An excellent pre-Christmas evening.

Thanks were expressed especially to John Moore who put a huge amount of energy into organising the raffle and to his assistants on the night, particularly Graham (aka Santa).

WHEN IS A GOALKEEPER NOT A PLAYER?

[This article is a bit late now because I hadn't room in my last issue. The question it raises is still as valid]

In the 1990 FIFA World Cup finals in Italy, Referees were issued with a set of 'Instructions'. Part of the first one read 'Referees . . . must severely penalise . . . , any sort of tackling which, in their opinion, could endanger the physical well-being of the opponent or cause him injury (Serious Foul Play). The Referee shall . . . send off any player who commits such an offence, even if he has not previously been cautioned.'

There were a number of instances where the Referees sent off players guilty of such Serious Foul Play. But there were instances when a player guilty of Serious Foul Play was not sent off, and this was when the player happened to be the goalkeeper. Referees seemed to apply this FIFA instruction to all players except goalkeepers.

No goalkeeper guilty, in my opinion, of Serious Foul Play was sent off.

In the 28th minute of the Austria v. Czechoslovakia (0-1) Group 'A' match in Florence on 15th June, refereed by George Smith (Scotland), Josef Chovanec was stretchered off the field after a serious foul by the Austrian goalkeeper, Klaus Lindenberger.

Austrian defender Anton Pfeffer had played the ball back towards his own goalkeeper when Chovanec, in anticipation, had come racing through to intercept the ball inside the penalty-area. He neatly pushed the ball past the advancing goalkeeper who brought him down heavily. The Referee awarded the obvious penalty-kick but did not send off Lindenberger. He was not even cautioned.

Without doubt, if the offence had taken place outside the penalty area, the goalkeeper would have been sent off for Serious Foul Play. Did the Referee think that the award of the penalty-kick was sufficient punishment? Such an offence outside the penalty-area would have seen a direct free-kick and a send off. So, inside the penalty-area should it not have been a penalty-kick and a send off? Chovanec was in a lot of pain. He was carried off, stretchered to the dressing room and substituted by Julius Bielek. Michel Bikel scored the penalty, the game's only goal.

In the 26th minute of the Group 'E' game Belgium v. Spain (1-2) on 21st June in Verona refereed by Juan C. Loustau (Argentina), Belgium's goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme advanced quickly from goal to bring down Julio Salinas who had raced on to a through ball from Emilio Butragueno. It was a similar offence to Lindenberger's. Once again, a penalty-kick was given but there was no send off, or even a caution, for the goalkeeper.

A third case of 'Should the goalkeeper have been sent off for Serious Foul Play?' occurred in the 13th minute of extra-time in the quarter-final, England v. Cameroon (3-2 aet) in Naples on 1st July, refereed by Edgardo E. Codesal Mendez (Mexico). A through ball by Paul Gascoigne sent Gary Linekar through with only goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono to beat. He quickly pushed the ball round N'Kono on the edge of the penalty-area. The goalkeeper was nowhere near the ball as he grabbed Linekar's ankles. A penalty-kick was given but no send off or even a caution for the offence.

In Salinas' and Linekar's cases, both players were able to continue playing, but Chovanec was so badly injured that he had to be substituted. FIFA's instruction quoted above is quite clear and these goalkeepers should have been sent off.

So, when is a goalkeeper not considered to be a player? The answer from Italia '90 is: when he is guilty of Serious Foul Play inside his own penalty-area.

Mal Davies, The Midland Referee

A GUIDE TO SOME OF THE TERMINOLOGY . . .

inspirational - a player who shouts a lot
target man - striker who never scores
fiery - booked every game
temperamental - 50% temper and 50% mental
half volley - attempts a volley and gets it half right
much travelled - an awkward sod to manage
midfield dynamo - runs around a lot
former international = 35 years old and over the top
the team is lacking in confidence - we're rubbish
good at finding space - doesn't like tackling
the lad's fearless - he's thick
long-serving - no other club wants him
the manager's dream - buys the drinks after the game
good in midfield or in attack - useless as a defender

[From another society's magazine. Thanks and apologies to the editor - I didn't note the reference!]

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Some years ago we changed our rules to allow our membership details to be held in a computer file. Apart from the amazing capability of being able to print out lists at will, we can also consider our membership statistics in various ways and make comparisons with earlier years. The last time I did this was during the 1988/9 season so that's generally what I will compare with.

At the end of December we had 136 members - not up to the 149 of 1988/9 but better than last year's 114 at the corresponding time. Of our 136 members, 120 are active (88%) against 123 of the 149 (83%). 3 are in the 'Youth' class.

The age bands of members in classes 1, 2 and 3 (with the 1988/9 figures in brackets) are as follows:

Age	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Totals
25 and under	2 (0)	0 (1)	8 (8)	10 (9)
26 - 30	1 (2)	4 (3)	3 (10)	8 (15)
31 - 35	7 (3)	4 (5)	6 (10)	17 (18)
36 - 40	8 (12)	5 (8)	11 (13)	24 (33)
41 - 45	18 (12)	5 (6)	12 (10)	35 (28)
46 - 50	9 (4)	2 (2)	5 (4)	16 (10)
Over 50	3 (4)	3 (3)	1 (1)	7 (8)
Totals	<u>48 (37)</u>	<u>23 (28)</u>	<u>46 (56)</u>	<u>117 (121)</u>

What does it all mean? Good news, bad news. We have more better qualified referees - with 48 active Class 1s - but the membership is getting older. Whereas the largest age group was 36 - 40 (and in previous years) it's now 41 - 45, and the 41 - 50 group is much bigger. Good that we are staying active longer, bad that we are not increasing the number of younger referees at the same rate.

As usual, most of our referees (active and non-active) qualified in Reading (76% against 81% two years ago). 65 (73) of our active referees have qualified in the last five years, 23 (22) in the previous five years. A higher number and proportion of our members are registered with the local leagues, with 81 (76) refereeing on Saturdays, 78 (64) on Sundays, of whom 51 (37) do both.

But that is not all. 49 (52) are willing to do school games on Saturday mornings and a surprising 55 (54) will officiate at half terms. Even more will do six-a-sides - 74 (67) - but fewer and fewer are volunteering to be mentors/coaches for new referees (16 against the previously disappointing 25), though in practice many agree to help later in the season.

Finally, as in every previous year since the computer records began, the largest single group of members comes from postcode area RG3. Is it the air?

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

The same as usual only even better. Ticket receipts of almost £1,700 with Ivan McNelly getting his usual credit (and a small gift voucher) for the incredible tally of 194 books sold. The profit

paid fully for the children's outing to the pantomime as well as a gift for each of them. And still over £200 to the RA funds.

Again, congratulations to John Moore and his team and to all those who sold tickets and made the draw such a success.

List of All the Winners

Prize	Ticket no	Name of Winner
Scalextric Set	6378	Rita c/o M. Hopson
Die Hard Video	7413	Stuart Mills
Lady & the Tramp Video	2113	Michael Baker
Nintendo Games Unit	6049	Terry Wignall
14" Colour TV Set	13123	Liz Wainwright
Set of 6 Videos	12895	John Sea
Personal Stereo	8761	D. Pletcher
Christmas Crackers	7007	J. West
Swingball Game	381	S. Brenet
Scrabble	12503	M. Jackson
Cuddly Gorilla	6345	M. Hopson
Sports Bag	8623	J. Morgan
Electronic Golf Game	526	B. Gibbs
Midi Hi-Fi	14189	Barry & Wendy c/o I. McNelly
Jigsaw Puzzle	9435	M. Albery
Bottles of Wine	14460	J. Keeley
Bottle of Whisky	10048	P. Taylor
Bottle of Vodka	2340	M. Beasley
Bottle of Rum	8588	T & M Heating c/o G. Pithers
Bottle of Gin	7108	H. Wright
Bottles of Port & Sherry	11290	J. May
Tin of Biscuits	3888	R. Clark
Tin of Biscuits	3292	P. Butler
Cocktail Set	7129	T. McPherson
Set of Glasses	1338	D. Bull
Peanut Dispenser	10598	M. Botting
Jar of Sweets	1218	Monica Lambden
Jar of Sweets	8658	D. Owen
Case of Beer	1287	K. Parsons
Bottles of Martini	1447	Sue Monaghan
Food Processor	12630	J. Tombs
Exercise Cycle	544	Ruby Goddard
Stereo Headphones & Filofax	2117	Mr Mack c/o M. Baker
Deep Fat Fryer	4042	Massey Htng c/o M. Costello
Subbuteo Game	7893	Julie c/o R. Over
Pretty Woman Video	891	J. Ferguson
Sodastream Set	7832	Ann c/o R. Over
Mars Crackers	13991	G. Barret
Bottle of Whisky	13619	Davina c/o I. McNelly

RED CARD FOR GAZZA

We shouldn't have been surprised that Vic Callow would get so much publicity for sending off Paul Gascoigne.

Much more worrying for me is that sane commentators like Patrick Barclay in the Observer (6/1/91) can still fail to understand. In a longish article he shows that he knows Law 12, that he knows unacceptable language can be 'foul or abusive' and that the words don't have to be directed at the referee.

Yet, although he knows Gascoigne allegedly used the words f..... c..., he still seems to accept Gascoigne's defence that he 'had merely expressed general frustration at the denial of a penalty (when Linekar fell) and not sworn at the referee'. Who then is the f..... c... being referred to? Linekar's alleged fouler? Linekar himself perhaps? Somebody certainly, so the language was both foul and abusive and fully merited Vic Callow's quick and correct action.

Patrick Barclay's suggestion, that referees 'who take pride in controlling matches through force of personality, as in the old days' - like Neil Midgeley, Keith Hackett and George Courtney - would have acted differently, is worrying twice over. First, because it suggests three of our leading referees would have condoned directed foul and abusive language - adjective plus noun could hardly be other - and second, because it suggests that the referee's 'personality' is more important than Law.

I have always questioned, and sometimes written about, my concern over that part of Law 12 - that 'foul or abusive language' should merit the same immediate sanction as the deliberate physical foul. But surely it can't be the referee's job to try to re-write the Law by failing to apply it. That isn't what Barclay calls 'flexibility', that's anarchy.

AND MORE . . .

Liverpool has two players sent off, so we must have a top level meeting . . . The usually taciturn Kenny Dalglish becomes articulate. Clubs, League, FA, referees need to get together, with the implication (always) that the referees are getting it wrong. The bit about the players doing the fouling seems to get lost.

I didn't see the first incident concerning Liverpool, but I saw nothing new in the second. MacMahon, hardly a contender for the Fair Play Award, commits a second cautionable offence and goes. Appeared straight-forward. My worry about Liverpool, now re-inforced, is that the pressure on referees is such that Liverpool

players normally seem to get the benefit of any possible doubt. Again, the press referred to the 'alternative' group of referees, of whom Mike Peck by implication is not one, who would have acted differently.

Of course, one of them, George Courtney, had his own problem and critics in the recent Leeds Utd v. Barnsley game. McClelland 'has contact with' Rammell just outside the penalty area and with a clear run on goal. George blows his whistle and takes a long time before showing the yellow card. Unfortunately he had to be wrong. If it was a foul, it was a free kick and, according to the directive, a red card. If it was not a foul, there was no action to take. What was not available was an appraisal (however long) of the nature of the foul itself, and a yellow card.

NEIL DAINTY

Committee member Neil has been promoted in his job and returns to his native North West. Thanks, Neil, for your work for the Society and all the best for the future.

COUNTY RA QUIZ

Date for your diary, Monday 11 February. Annual RA Quiz, this year at the Wycombe Trades Union Club. Support your team.

NATIONAL RA - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year the conference will be held at **Torquay from 7-9 June**. A number of us go most years but all members are invited. Why not join the gang? See Derek Reigate for details.

TRAINING COURSE

The new course has just started. Not too late if you know anybody who would like/could be persuaded to join. Mondays at the South Reading Community Centre. See Stephen Green or any of the training team for full details.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

January 17	Ian Porterfield, Reading FC manager
February 21	Keith Cooper, Football League referee
March 21	Ray Lewis, FIFA and Football League referee

SOCIAL EVENTS

February 6 Trip to England v. Cameroon (Wembley)

May 24 Dinner & Dance (Berkshire Suite, Shire Hall)
(Note change of date) Tickets £20 each

COLLECTION

Nearly £72 was collected for the Polio Appeal and Heart Foundation at the December meeting in memory of Fred May. As promised it was made up to £100.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

A good time was had had by all and special thanks are due to the 'helpers' - Alison Chapman, Sally-Ann Monaghan, Judy Reigate, Michael Stockton, Kevin Parsons, John Lambden, Richard Highfield.

A N N U A L D I N N E R & D A N C E
A N N U A L D I N N E R & D A N C E

BERKSHIRE SUITE, SHIRE HALL

FRIDAY MAY 24th 1991

7-0 p.m. (bar opens) for 8.00 p.m.

Tickets £20 each

ALL IS FORGIVEN PATRICK

[Various Observer writers were asked to put forward ideas for sport in the new year. Patrick Barclay redeems himself with his (6/1/91)]

